

I have been a licensed amateur radio operator (K4KLQ) for many years, beginning as a novice, progressing through technician and finally earning a general class license. I feel strongly that to fulfil the stated mission of the Amateur Radio Service: having a trained and skilled pool of communicators, it would certainly be counter productive to drop the requirement for CW or to further water down the technical element of the examination. For those who do not have the motivation to learn and to gain skills, we currently have the citizens bands and the family radio service. Because other nations choose to lower their standards and to no longer benefit from the knowledge and capabilities of the skilled pool of radio operators represented by the Amateur Radio Service, that is no reason for us to follow suit; especially in the shadows of 9-11 and the California fires disasters.